

agriculture, small scale industries and transport operators upto two vehicles, the lending rates for loans between Rs. 2500 and upto Rs. 2 lakhs have been raised by only one percentage point. Interest rate on term loans to these sectors over Rs. 2 lakhs has been prescribed at 15.0 per cent (minimum) instead of 14.0 percent prior to October 9, 1991. As such term loans to these sectors are provided at concessional rate of interest relative to the general category of borrowers.

Rehabilitation Fund for Workers of Handloom and powerloom Industries

407. SHRI DHARMAANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the break up of funds provided to the workers of handloom and powerloom industries under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme;

(b) the number of handloom and powerloom industries declared sick till 1990-91 and covered under the scheme; and

(c) the number of textile units including handloom and powerloom industries regarding which the cases are pending for consideration in the Courts in various States, separately and the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textiles Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme does not include the workers in handloom and powerloom sector as the fund is for the workers of the organised mill sector.

(b) In view of 'A' above does not arise.

(c) The information is not maintained Centrally.

Export of Ghee and Butter

408. SHRI DHARMAANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of ghee and butter exported during the last three years, year-wise and the countries to which exported;

(b) whether in view of the shortage of these items in the domestic market and steep rise in their prices in recent months, the Government propose to stop exports of these items to make them available for domestic consumption; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per information available with Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) the quantity of ghee and butter exported during the last three years is as under:-

1988-89	313 Tonnes
1989-90	174 Tonnes
1990-91	146 Tonnes

These items are mainly exported to UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Malaysia.

(b) and (c). It would be clear from the above figures that only small quantities of these items are allowed for exports. These small exports would pose no problem of domestic supply. They have, on the other hand, positive aspects like product promotion, development of market and establishment of brands etc. which could result in larger exports in future depending upon the capacity of the country to undertake such

exports. The Government, therefore, do not propose to stop these exports.

Economic Prospects

409. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the government has been drawn to World Bank report titled "trends in developing economies" pointing out that India's development and policies are in a state of flux and its economic prospects depend in improving the efficiency of resource use;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to countenance this situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the government to repay the massive loans taken from the IMF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of radical reforms have been announced in industrial policy, trade policy, public sector enterprises and financial sectors to countenance the situation.

(c) Repayment of debt is made mainly from country's exports and invisible earnings. The Government have taken a number of steps to boost exports and to increase invisible earnings and to ensure that dependence of external financing is progressively reduced.

World Bank Loan for National Renewal Fund

410. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether world bank has offered a soft loan of US 600 million for the National Renewal Fund to create social security net for workers likely to be affected by closure of sick Public Sector Units; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). A World Bank Mission is likely to visit India in December 1991 to appraise World Bank Stock financing for National Renewal fund. Devils etc. would only be worked out during and after the visit of Mission.

Special Cell in Bombay stock Exchange for NRIs.

411. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open a special cell in the Bombay Stock Exchange to deal with the problems of the Non-resident Indians investing in India;

(b) whether such cells will be opened in other Stock Exchanges also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the mode of functioning of such cells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) A NRI Section under the existing Investors' Service Cell of the Stock Exchange, Bombay has been recently opened by the Exchange to look after the problems being faced by NRI investor with regard to their investments made in the Indian corporate securities and also too